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CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Note verbale dated 4 August 2000 from the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) and has the honour to refer to the statement made by Pax Romana during the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights, under agenda item 11 entitled "Civil and political rights, including the questions of (b) disappearances and summary executions" regarding the Democracy Movement Uprising of 1992 in Thailand.

In this connection, the Permanent Mission of Thailand has the further honour to forward, herewith enclosed, a copy of the letter dated 21 July 2000 from His Excellency Ambassador Futrakul, Permanent Representative of Thailand, addressed to the Chairman of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights on the importance the Thai Government attaches to the above May incident and the details of the measures taken by the Thai Government to investigate the incident as well as to provide assistance relief to the affected individuals and their families. The Permanent Mission would also like to request the Secretariat to circulate the said document* as an official document of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights under item 11 of the provisional agenda.

* Reproduced as received, in English only.

Annex

LETTER DATED 21 JULY 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THAILAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFICE AT GENEVA ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FIFT-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

I wish to refer to the statement made by Pax Romana during the 56th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights under agenda item 11 entitled "Civil and political rights, including the question of (b) disappearances and summary executions" regarding the Democracy Movement Uprising of 1992.

In this connection, in view of the need to apprise Your Excellency of the importance the Government of Thailand attaches to the above incident, the Permanent Mission of Thailand wishes to inform Your Excellency that on 21 June 2000, the Ministry of Defense made public the reports on the investigations related to the May 1992 incident totalling seven hundred twenty seven pages and, as of June this year, the Department of Social Welfare had paid a total sum of 122,532,879 baht as assistance relief to the affected individuals and their families, the details of which are attached herewith.

(signed) Virasakdi FUTRAKUL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Information on the Assistance to the Families of Individuals Affected by the Demonstrations during 17-21 May 1992

The political demonstrations during 17-21 May 1992 led to violent situations which caused the loss of lives and the destructions of property as follows:

1. 44 persons lost their lives, forty-one of whom have been identified and three of whom are still unidentified.
2. 48 persons disappeared.
3. 493 persons suffered injuries.
4. 731 persons had their properties damaged.

Assistance

1. The Department of Social Welfare sent social welfare officials to visit the injured demonstrators at their homes and in hospitals to listen to their problems, to investigate the damages and losses suffered by the families and to provide advices on how to request for assistance.

2. The Thai Cabinet , on 11 December 1992, approved the payments from the Central Fund to provide financial assistance with the following criteria:

- Cremation costs : 10,000 Baht per deceased person.
- Family assistance fund of 200,000 Baht per family.
- Preliminary financial assistance for the persons who were injured or handicapped.
- Financial assistance for damaged properties.
- Financial assistance for families of persons who disappeared.
- Scholarship funds up to tertiary level for the children of people who lost their lives:
    - Kindergarten and primary schools 1000 Baht/ month
    - High School 1500 Baht/ month
    - University 2500 Baht/ month
- Financial assistance to the families of the people who are deemed to have disappeared.

3. The Department of Social Welfare has made payments in accordance with the above-mentioned criteria as follows:

(1) Payments to 1,510 individuals from May 1992-May 1997 to the amount of 37,804,879 Baht (in accordance with the Thai Cabinet's decision on 26 May 1992)

(2) Payments to the thirty families of the persons who disappeared and who have been designated by the Thai Court as disappeared persons to the amount of 6,771,200 Baht (in accordance with the Thai Cabinet's decision on 19 October 1993)

(3) In fiscal year 1998, the Department of Social Welfare set aside the sum of 470,500 Baht to pay for the living expenses of the people who were handicapped from the demonstrations and for the scholarships of their children .

(4) On 26 May 1997, the Committee of the Relatives of the Heroes of May 1992 led by Mr.Abdul Khiewboriboon and Mr.Pipop Thongchai requested the Prime Minister of Thailand to set up a Fund for the assistance of the families of heroes who lost their lives or who suffered damages from the May 1992 demonstration. Consequently, the Thai Cabinet, on 21 October 1997, authorized additional assistance to ninety said families to the amount of 44,728,000 Baht as follows:

- Five hundred thousand Baht per family to 41 families totalling 20,500,000 Baht
- Five hundred thousand Baht each to 38 individuals who suffered damages totalling 19,000,000 Baht
- Five hundred thousand Baht each to ten handicapped persons totalling 5,000,000 Baht
- 223,000 Baht for the scholarships of the children of Mr.Preecha Janemongkol

5. The total payment by the Royal Thai Government to assist the individuals and their families who suffered from the May 1992 demonstration amounts to 122,532,879 Baht up until now.